

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-34, 41-47 and 51-59, drawn to a medical control apparatus, classified in class 128, subclass 897; and

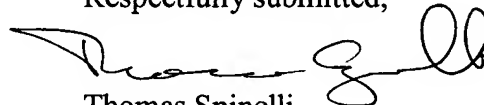
Group II, Claims 35-40, 48-50 and 60-63, drawn to a maintenance method, classified in class 702, subclass 184.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I and II are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group II, Claims 35-40, 48-50 and 60-63. However, the Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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